

REMARKS

The Office action of January 19, 2010, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that claims 1, 2 and 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over WO 03/076680 to Trakowski et al. in view of JP 10298727 and JP 10-110251.

Claims 1, 2 and 7-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over WO 03/076680 to Trakowski et al. in view of JP 10298727 and JP 10-110251, and further in view of JP 06108220.

Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over WO '680 in view of JP 727 and JP 251, and further in view of US 4912407.

In view of the Examiner's rejections of the claims, applicant has submitted herewith a verified translation of the German Priority document DE 102 55 995.3 for the present application. With the submission of this translation, applicant can rely on the priority date of November 30, 2002, which is earlier than the reference date of WO 03/076680, which is relied upon by the Examiner as a primary reference in rejecting the claims. With this

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submission applicant submits that WO 03/076680 is not prior art to the present invention.

In view of these considerations it is respectfully submitted that the rejections of claims 1-11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are overcome and should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the present application are respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

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